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DECREE ON DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN KAZAKH SSRKazakhstanskaya Pravda
Alma-Ata, 10 Oct 1953

The decree adopted at the Sixth Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, Kazakh SSR, in session on 5-6 October 1953, pursuant to the decree of the September 1953 Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU "On Measures for the Further Development of Agriculture in the USSR," contained the following information:

On the Present State of Agriculture in the Republic

The Sixth Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, Kazakh SSR, acknowledges that, because of the daily solicitude of party and government, agriculture in Kazakhstan has continuously and increasingly been equipped with the latest machinery.

Almost all kolkhozes of the republic are serviced by MTS (machine-tractor stations) and MZHS (mechanized animal-husbandry stations), and 99.6 percent of the sown area is worked with tractors.

Year by year, the collectivized sector of kolkhozes is growing and their indivisible funds increasing. Kolkhozes are becoming diversified enterprises with many branches of productive activity. Every year, there is an increase in production and delivery to the state of grain, cotton, sugar beets, meat, milk, wool, and other agricultural products.

At the same time, the plenum acknowledges that the great possibilities for large-scale socialist agriculture and the extensive aid of the state are utilized unsatisfactorily in the republic.

As was pointed out in the decree adopted at the September Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU, there are great and serious shortcomings in the development of agriculture, as a result of which the kolkhozes and sovkhoses of Kazakhstan have not yet become highly profitable enterprises which are able to produce many commodities for market and thereby satisfy the growing demands of the population for food products and light industry for raw materials.

Animal husbandry remains the most backward branch of agriculture in the republic. During recent years, as a result of a widespread cattle plague brought about by negligence, many kolkhozes of the republic tolerated a decrease in the size of their livestock herds.

The number of cattle, sheep, and goats in kolkhozes of Gur'yevskaya Oblast decreased between 1 January 1946 and 1 January 1953; the size of cattle herds decreased during the same period in kolkhozes of Zapadno-Kazakhstanskaya and Yuzhno-Kazakhstanskaya oblasts. For kolkhozes throughout the republic as a whole, 1952 was an especially bad cattle year.

The number of cattle in all categories has failed to reach prewar levels in Vostochno-Kazakhstanskaya and Zapadno-Kazakhstanskaya oblasts, while the number of hogs has fallen short of prewar levels in Akmolinskaya, Vostochno-Kazakhstanskaya, Kokchetavskaya, Kustanayskaya, Severo-Kazakhstanskaya, Semipalatinskaya, and Taldy-Kurganskaya oblasts.

The extremely low (24.3) percent of cows in collectivized herds can be explained only by the failure of party, state, and agricultural organizations of the republic to evaluate properly the importance of the reproductive role of female livestock in increasing the size of herds. Breeding cattle are slaughtered for meat and diverted to other purposes, in many kolkhozes and sovkhoses, all with the indulgence of supervisory personnel in party, Soviet,

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and agricultural organizations. In 1952 alone, the number of cows in kolkhozes of the republic decreased 10.8 percent. Instead of augmenting their herds by increasing animal reproduction, many kolkhozes purchase livestock, spending a considerable amount of their own funds and state credit which were allocated for other purposes such as the construction of animal shelters, purchase of purebred cattle, and for increasing fodder reserves.

Kolkhozes and sovkhoses year after year put up with plague and animal barrenness, both of which result in low birth rates and unfulfilled animal-husbandry plans.

Milk yields and wool clips in 1952 in kolkhozes of the republic were lower than in 1940; milk yields per cow were particularly low in the following oblasts: Gur'yevskaya, 257 liters; Kzyl-Ordinskaya, 354 liters; Yuzhno-Kazakhstanskaya, 456 liters; Karagandinskaya, 514 liters; and Alma-Atinskaya, 613 liters.

Such milk yields are the outcome of bad feeding practices and inadequate care and maintenance of cows. Supervisors of oblasts fail to consider that, regardless of the breed of cow, proper feeding and care can result in milk yields exceeding those established by plan.

Qualitative improvements in breeding are being carried out in a completely unsatisfactory manner. Inadequate care of sheep, unsuccessful eradication of mange, and untimely shearing of wool all contributed to a low wool clip in 1952 of 1.9 kilograms per sheep, as against 2.4 kilograms in 1940.

Especially low wool clips are found in kolkhozes of Gur'yevskaya, Zapadno-Kazakhstanskaya, Vostochno-Kazakhstanskaya, Kokchetavskaya, and Kustanayskaya oblasts.

The plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, Kazakh SSR, attributes the low status of animal husbandry primarily to a lag in production and to inadequate stores of fodder. Cattle in sovkhoses and kolkhozes of the republic are also poorly provided with shelters.

The plenum finds the negligence of party, state, and agricultural organizations deplorable in failing to increase the number of cattle owned as personal property by kolkhoz households, workers, and employees. These organizations also fail to provide veterinary assistance and fodder for cattle belonging to individual households, and permit the extensive sale of such cattle to replenish the collectivized sector of animal husbandry. As a result, the number of cattle individually owned decreased by 350,000 since 1940, cows by 188,000, and sheep and goats by 903,000. Since 1940, the number of kolkhoz households containing no cows at all rose by almost 90,000, so that 15.3 percent of the total number of households in the republic are without cows.

From 73 to 81 percent of individual kolkhoz households own no cows in Gur'yevskaya, Dzhambul'skaya, and Yuzhno-Kazakhstanskaya oblasts. About 90 percent of the kolkhoz households in Alma-Atinskaya, Vostochno-Kazakhstanskaya, and Severo-Kazakhstanskaya oblasts own neither sheep nor goats.

There are also serious deficiencies in the development of land cultivation. The increase in sown area is not accompanied by better cultivation practices and higher yields. Year after year, many kolkhozes and sovkhoses of the republic obtain intolerably small harvests, do not supply themselves with seed of their own growing, do not fulfill their obligations to the state, do not create the fodder supplies necessary for development of the collectivized animal-husbandry sector, and give the kolkhoz workers very little grain and almost no potatoes, vegetables, and animal products for their workdays.

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The principal reasons for small harvests are late and poor performance of agricultural work, failure to fulfill the plans for plowing of winter and summer fallow by MTS, kolkhozes, and sovkhoses, neglect of seed growing, and poor care of growing crops, especially industrial crops. Kolkhozes and sovkhoses are slow in introducing such new progressive methods as close-row and crisscross sowing of grain crops, wide-row planting of millet, check-row planting of sunflowers, potatoes, maize, and vegetables, supplemental fertilization of agricultural crops, deep plowing, and others.

MTS and MZHS of the republic do not perform timely and high-quality work and are not concerned about raising yields in the kolkhozes which they service.

The grass-field system of agriculture, although the basic and decisive condition for obtaining large and stable harvests of agricultural crops and for creating a stable fodder base for collectivized animal husbandry, is being introduced in an altogether unsatisfactory manner in kolkhozes of the republic. Crop rotation has been introduced in 1,479 kolkhozes but mastered in only 74. The main obstacle preventing mastery of the grass-field crop-rotation system is lack of appreciation of the need for growing grass seed.

In recent years, no new virgin or long-fallow lands, which are of great importance in raising crop yields, have been put into use.

Kolkhozes and sovkhoses in the southern oblasts of the republic, possessing all the favorable conditions for large and stable harvests, particularly cotton, sugar beets, and rice, make poor use of irrigated lands and water resources, do nothing to increase soil fertility, and carry out irrigated agriculture at a low level. Irrigated agriculture is held in low esteem in kolkhozes of Semipalatinskaya and Vostochno-Kazakhstanskaya oblasts.

The plenum deems the situation intolerable with regard to production of potatoes and vegetables. Plans for planting of potatoes and vegetables have not been fulfilled year after year and areas planted to potatoes have been reduced. In 1953, the area devoted to potatoes was almost 50 percent smaller than before the war. Planting of potatoes and vegetables is late and on poorly prepared and unfertilized land; irrigated land is not used for potatoes and vegetables, and kolkhozes do not supply themselves with seed potatoes. Care of potatoes and vegetables planted is unsatisfactorily organized; MTS directors take a lofty attitude toward this matter. The result is that potato and vegetable harvests are small and that year after year kolkhozes and sovkhoses have failed to meet their obligations for delivery of these crops to the state, thereby depriving the populations of cities and industrial centers.

The plenum finds that there are serious shortcomings in the work of MTS and MZHS. Their performance is poor in fodder procurement, mechanization of labor-consuming work on livestock farms, and extension of aid to kolkhozes in building livestock shelters. Machinery is utilized in a completely unsatisfactory manner in MTS and MZHS; this is a principal reason for the lag in some important branches of agriculture. In many MTS and MZHS, great over-expenditures of fuel, spare parts, and money are permitted. Many tractor drivers and operators of combines and other machines do not fulfill their shift norms and permit their machines to stand idle for long periods of time. MTS and MZHS do not have enough tractor drivers, combine operators, tractor brigade leaders, and other skilled personnel.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Procurement Kazakh SSR and party, Soviet, and agricultural organs do not pay serious attention to the training of mechanical cadres and do not take measures to improve the work of mechanical schools, with the result that the schools sometimes graduate only slightly qualified cadres.

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Party, Soviet, and agricultural organs supervise the work of MTS and MZhS superficially and take little interest in properly selecting, assigning, and training MTS and MZhS cadres. Few agricultural specialists are promoted to supervisory work. Only 17 percent of the MTS directors, 10 percent of the MTS chief engineers, and 26 percent of the MTS chief agronomists have higher educations.

The plenum finds that the Ministry of Agriculture and Procurement Kazakh SSR, many oblast and rayon party committees, and many oblast and rayon executive committees supervise agriculture unskillfully, do not delve deeply into kolkhoz economic affairs or MTS, MZhS, and sovkhoz operations, limit themselves to average data in evaluating the work of these enterprises, and take no measures to use fully the reserves present in every kolkhoz and sovkhoz for increasing output.

At some places, rayon party committees and rayon executive committees, instead of taking serious measures to effect an upsurge in the agriculture of lagging kolkhozes, take the improper course of shifting planned tasks for the development of collectivized animal husbandry, planned expansions in the sown area, and planned increases in deliveries to the state onto leading kolkhozes. This course is detrimental to the interests of leading kolkhozes and their workers and does not stimulate them to strengthen the collectivized sector of their enterprises.

Improper use of agricultural specialists prevails in the republic. Many specialists have settled in the administrative apparatus, while very few work directly at productive activities in MTS, kolkhozes, and sovkhozes. Of all agricultural specialists with higher or secondary agricultural educations, only 56 percent work in MTS, kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and the zootechnician and veterinarian network (zoovetset'); only 920 persons work directly in kolkhozes. Of 3,000 kolkhoz chairmen, only 415 have higher or secondary educations.

Many young specialists leave production work and go elsewhere because of the indifferent attitude prevalent toward creating cultural living and working conditions for them. In some areas of the republic, the lot of agricultural specialists is so humiliating that many of them are unable to exert any influence whatsoever on conditions prevailing in kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

Oblast party committees, rayon party committees, and kolkhoz primary party organizations unsatisfactorily carry out mass political work among kolkhoz workers, indifferently train them to have a thrifty attitude toward collective property, and take no measures to improve labor organization, raise labor discipline, and increase production activity. As a result, some kolkhoz workers take no part in the collective work of their kolkhoz and do not even work the established number of workdays, to the detriment of the growth and development of the collective sector of the kolkhoz.

The plenum acknowledges as fully justified the criticism directed at the Central Committee and the Council of Ministers of the republic as laid down in the decree of the September Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU and recited in the report of Secretary N. S. Khrushchev.

On Further Development of Animal Husbandry in Kolkhozes and Sovkhozes of the Republic

Since the rapid development of animal husbandry, primarily in the collectivized sector, is the most important agricultural problem confronting the state and party, the plenum of the republic decrees and instructs the appropriate party, Soviet, agricultural, and trade organizations of the republic, its oblasts, and its rayons:

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1. To set up within 2 weeks such practical measures as are required to execute the decrees issued by the Council of Ministers USSR and the Central Committee of the CPSU.
2. To increase the size of collectivized livestock herds for all sectors to the following number in 1954: cattle, 5 million, sheep and goats, 25,850,000; and hogs, 590,000. In the kolkhoz sector alone, to increase livestock herds to the following number: cattle, 2,300,000 including 890,000 cows; sheep and goats, 20,200,000; and hogs, 300,000.
3. To increase the percentage of cows in cattle herds to 60 percent in kolkhozes adjoining such cities as Alma-Ata, Karaganda, Chirchik, Ust'-Kamenogorsk, and Zyrjanovsk, and to 40-50 percent in kolkhozes of all other areas.
4. To raise the sale of meat to 360,000 metric tons in 1954 and 420,000 metric tons in 1955; milk to 830,000 metric tons in 1955; and wool to 45,000 metric tons in 1954 and 57,000 metric tons in 1955.
5. To accomplish the following yields within 2-3 years: an increase in the average milk yield per foraging cow to 1,500-1,800 liters in suburban areas, 600-700 liters in livestock areas, and 1,100-1,200 liters in all other regions of the republic.
6. To increase the wool clip within 2-3 years to 1.5 kilograms per sheep in regions producing fine and semifine wool and 2 kilograms in kolkhozes specializing in meat and tallow production and in Astrakhan wool; to increase the live-weight delivery of meat to no less than 330-350 kilograms per head of cattle and to 50-55 kilograms per sheep.
7. To put a stop to diverting into improper channels young pigs and mature hogs, which annually prevents plan fulfillment and inhibits the development of that branch of animal husbandry; to fulfill plans for increasing the number of hogs and deliveries to the state by each hog-raising kolkhoz and sovkhos in the republic.
8. To develop and improve livestock breeds.
9. By 1955, to increase the area sown to annual and perennial grasses in kolkhozes of the republic to 1,050,000 hectares in fields where crop rotation is practiced, and to an additional 1,550,000 hectares by plowing up fields sown to low-productive fodder.
10. To increase beginning in 1954 the area for perennial grass seed to 250,000 hectares (including alfalfa seed, to 150,000 hectares) and for annual grass seed to 20,000 hectares; to obtain the following average seed yields per hectare (in quintals): alfalfa, 1.5-2; sainfoin, 5-7; agropyron, 1.5-2; couch grass, 2-3; orchard grass, 1-1.5; rye grass, 1.5-2; Sudan grass, 7-8; and vetch, 8-10.
11. To obtain an average hay yield from the entire area sown to annual and perennial grasses of 25-30 quintals per hectare, so that by 1954 the total hay harvest will total 2.5-3 million metric tons.
12. To increase popularity of estuarial irrigation for the purpose of obtaining more hay from natural meadows; by the end of 1955, to increase the area under estuarial irrigation to 2,200,000 hectares in kolkhozes and sovkhoses of the republic; to obtain from this area a hay harvest of 5-6 million metric tons annually.

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13. To assure storage of at least 4,400,000 metric tons of ensilage in 1954 and 6 million metric tons in 1955; for this purpose, to plant maize and sunflowers in the southern, southwestern, and eastern oblasts and to plant more maize in the northern oblasts.

14. Beginning in 1953, to assure collection in full of all grain-crop straw and chaff and its use as livestock fodder.

15. To intensify the construction of livestock shelters in kolkhozes of the republic, and by 1955 to build quarters for 1.5 million head of cattle and calves, one million sheep, 180,000 hogs, and 2 million fowl; to fulfill the 1953 plan for building animal shelters in each kolkhoz.

On Increasing the Yield of Agricultural Crops

The plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, Kazakh SSR, decrees and instructs the appropriate party, Soviet, agricultural, and trade organs of the republic, its oblasts, and its rayons:

1. To assure all-round development of grain growing, especially wheat growing, since wheat is a basic agricultural product.

2. To assure that kolkhozes and sovkhoses in the northeastern portion of Kazakhstan in 1954-1955 raise grain-crop yields to 15-16 quintals per hectare and 24-26 quintals per hectare on irrigated land.

3. To increase the area sown to hard wheat in the northeastern oblasts of the republic and to expand the area sown to winter wheat in Yuzhno-Kazakhstanskaya, Taldy-Kurganskaya, Alma-Atinskaya, and Dzhambulskaya oblasts.

4. To take measures to expand the area devoted to oats and barley in all livestock-raising areas, since the sharp curtailment in sowing these crops which has taken place in recent years in many kolkhozes and sovkhoses is intolerable.

5. To take measures to raise the yield and the sown area of millet.

6. To assure that growing of sunflowers becomes more popular and that the yield in every kolkhoz and sovkhos rises to at least 7-8 quintals of seeds per hectare.

7. To liquidate lags in cotton production in Dzhambulskaya, Kzyl-Ordinskaya, Yuzhno-Kazakhstanskaya oblasts, to take measures to increase the area sown to cotton on both new and presently unused irrigated land, and to raise the yield to 26-27 quintals per hectare.

8. To take the necessary measures to raise sugar-beet yield in Dzhambulskaya, Taldy-Kurganskaya, and Alma-Atinskaya oblasts to at least 425-450 quintals per hectare.

9. To use aviation in agriculture, particularly in the struggle against pests and weeds and in carrying out supplemental fertilization of crops with mineral fertilizers.

10. To end lags in potato and vegetable production and assure during the next 2-3 years a considerable rise in the yield of these crops.

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11. In 1954, to increase the area devoted to potatoes to 60,000 hectares in kolkhozes and 3,500 hectares in sovkhoses and the area devoted to vegetables to 30,000 hectares in kolkhozes and 2,500 hectares in sovkhoses.

12. To obtain the following average yields per hectare (in quintals): potatoes, at least 110-120; cabbage, 150; onions, 70; tomatoes, 120; cucumber, 100; carrots, 90; and beets, 120.

13. In 1954, to begin construction of 302,000 hotbed frames in kolkhozes and 210,000 in sovkhoses and subsidiary enterprises, and 14,500 square meters of hothouses in kolkhozes and 13,000 square meters in sovkhoses and subsidiary enterprises.

14. To introduce on a wide scale the growing of vegetable plants in peat-humus and manure-soil pots.

15. To construct potato storage facilities in kolkhozes and sovkhoses in suburban zones and to recommend to kolkhozes and sovkhoses in these zones that, after fulfilling the obligatory plans for delivery and sales to the state, they preserve vegetables by salting, pickling, canning, and drying.

16. To increase the number of stores and stalls specializing in potatoes and vegetables in cities and industrial centers.

17. To assure an all-round increase in the area devoted to fruit trees and berries by planting new orchards and restoring those killed by frost.

18. To take measures to increase the area devoted to watermelons and muskmelons.

On Further Improvement of MTS and MZhS

The plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, Kazakh SSR, decrees and instructs the appropriate party, Soviet, agricultural, and supply organs of the republic, its oblasts, and its rayons:

1. To assure, during the next few years, full mechanization of field cultivation operations and to speed up mechanization of labor-consuming operations in animal husbandry and potato and vegetable growing.

2. To achieve improvement of tractor work and assure unconditional fulfillment of contracts between MTS or MZhS and kolkhozes.

3. To pay serious attention to the new system of permanent cadres and the conditions surrounding their recruitment and establishment in MTS and MZhS.

4. To pay particular attention to the matter of strengthening MTS and MZhS with supervisory, engineering, and technical cadres drawn in 1953 from industrial branches of the national economy of the republic to work in MTS and MZhS as directors, chief engineers, and heads of repair shops.

5. To take measures for the full use of all tractors and machines in MTS and MZhS.

6. To assure an adequate supply of spare parts, repair materials, and fuel for the tractors and other machines of each MTS and MZhS.

7. To take all measures for the construction of more housing, repair shops, and machine sheds.

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8. To direct agronomists and zootechnicians to MTS and MEHS for servicing kolkhozes and to raise the role and responsibility of these specialists for developing all branches of the collectivized sector of kolkhozes.

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